

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Parents
Marisela Garcia
Amber Seipert
Jonna Wingert

State Legislature
John Andreason
Rich Wills
Phylis King

Business
Michael Gartner

Health District
Dianne Waldemarson

State Department of Education
Marybeth Wells

Regional Early Childhood Representative
& Early Intervention Provider
Ellen Neff

Early Intervention Private Providers
Lisa Richards-Evans, Service Coordinator
Ida Gustin, Tribal

Medicaid
Robin Pewtress

Foster Care
Mechelle Wilson

Maternal Child Health
Carolyn Conner

Personnel Preparation, Higher Education
Janice Fletcher

State Early Intervention Providers
Todd Hurt, Child Mental Health
Mary Dunne, Deaf/Blind Education

State Department of Insurance
Joan Krosch

Idaho Migrant Council
Estela Lopez

Head Start Association
Stan Burton

H & W Regional Director
John Hathaway

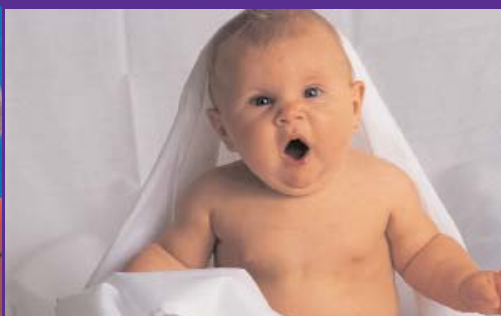
Head Start State Collaboration
Carolyn Kiefer

Physician Representative
Sherry Iverson

Early Childhood Professional Organization
& Child Care
Karen Mason



Annual Report 2007



December 31, 2007

The Early Childhood Coordinating Council (EC3) is a consolidation of the Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) as established in Idaho Code in 1991 and the Early Care and Learning Cross Systems Task Force as enhanced through Executive Order in 2006. Merging of the two groups provided an opportunity to streamline the functions and responsibilities and eliminate duplication creating government efficiencies. The Council has been operating as a single group since September 2007.

Holding true to their **Mission Statement**, the EC3 provides **Leadership, Education and Coordination** through a willingness to hear and address issues pertaining to systems, services, local coordination, quality factors that impact families accessibility to services. Leadership comes through a forum of listening, recommendations and problem solving. Education occurs during and between meetings through information sharing with regional areas and outreach to other groups. Coordination takes place through planning, communication and implementation as no single agency or entity has the expertise, resources, or capacity to address all issues of young children and their families.

The Council meets four times per year and committees work through conference calls on a monthly basis. There is an executive committee and four standing committees 1) public policy, 2) public awareness, 3) finance and resources, and 4) membership.

One of the primary roles of the Council is to advise and assist the Department of Health and Welfare regarding issues around implementation of the Infant Toddler Program, Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Part C. In this role, the Council provides ongoing support and recommendations.

The other primary role of the Council is to provide oversight for the state systems grant that looks at issues and ways to provide support for families in five focus areas. Those focus areas of health, social and emotional development, early care and education, parent education and family supports. These are known to be the basic elements to help families prepare their children for school and for life-long learning.

Council membership is diverse based on federal regulations for Part C, Idaho Code and the larger scope of early childhood and the state systems grant. The membership consists of the following agencies and entities:

St. Lukes Hospital	Medicaid
Idaho Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics	Child Care
Parents	Early Intervention Providers
Business	Early Childhood Professionals
State Legislators	Higher Education -- Personnel Preparation
State Department of Education	Tribal Representation
Department of Insurance	Head Start Collaboration
Idaho Association for the Education of Young Children	Foster Care
Idaho Community Council	Mental Health
Idaho Head Start Association	Health Districts
Maternal Child Health	Department of Health and Welfare Executive Council

This report will provide an overview of some of the accomplishments of the Early Childhood Coordinating Council during 2007. The Council work is complex and at times difficult to measure. For example, reading through 300 pages of proposed federal regulations and providing comments based on the impact for Idaho is not measurable in terms of change; however, the work was an extremely important process. For additional information you may contact the staff office for the Council at 334-5699.

VISION

All Idaho's children grow up healthy, safe and nurtured by their families, with quality learning opportunities, and are able to reach their fullest potential supported by inclusive community services.

MISSION

Provide leadership and education, and coordinate resources for Idaho's young children and their families.

TEN SHARED GOALS

1. Families of young children have a regular health care provider that oversees their health care and refers them to other services and resources as needed (medical home).
2. All children receive appropriate health-related services for optimal health and development.
3. Families of young children have access to social and emotional screening, and when needed, assessment and age-appropriate follow-up care.
4. Young children have access to high quality child care, when needed.
5. Young children access early learning opportunities to support school readiness and their optimal development.
6. Families and caregivers of young children have access to information, resources and support to help them raise healthy, strong children.
7. Parents and caregivers meet the basic needs of children.
8. Families, communities, businesses and the state work together to establish strategies and procedures that support families of young children.
9. Assure linkages and coordination among providers and programs that serve families of young children.
10. Establish and use outcomes and indicators to assess and monitor changes in the health and well-being of families of young children.



HEALTH CARE

Health impacts a Child's ability to learn, grow and participate in the community. Child and family access to a primary medical provider (medical home) is essential for health and well-being.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Developed a resource file for Idaho physicians to assist with screening for autism, maternal depression, cranial positional disorders, screening for hearing, importance of medical and dental homes, early intervention and other information. Distributed 700 packets statewide to medical offices and personnel with the support of the Regional Early Childhood Committees. Completed January 2007

Adopted a neutral position regarding craniosacral therapy when regional Infant Toddler Program staff requested a review of the efficacy for this type of intervention for young children. Completed May 2007

Assisted Medicaid with outreach and the distribution of 50,000 brochures and 100 posters for Idaho Health Plan Coverage for Children. Completed September 2007

MENTAL HEALTH AND SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The first years of life create the foundation for a child's ability to have positive relationships with others, to have self-confidence and the ability to meet change and challenges successfully. Healthy social and emotional development is necessary for success in school and in life.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Representation of the Early Childhood Coordinating Council on the statewide early childhood mental health team helps assure comprehensive planning and systematic promotion of professional development, service delivery and funding. Ongoing

Developed a matrix of all Early Childhood Social and Emotional/Mental Health models currently employed for children from birth to age 5 in the state of Idaho to assist in planning the next steps for technical assistance and potential funding for implementation. Completed October 2007

PARENT EDUCATION

Parent education includes a broad range of services and programs that can support parents and increase their knowledge about appropriate child development. Information about important topics like guidance, play, regulating behavior, language and early literacy is available to help parents strengthen their ability to help their child thrive. Community, church and, home visitor programs, Head Start and extended family can offer support so babies and parents thrive.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Reviewed over 100 links and articles on the Early Childhood Information Clearinghouse at www.idahochild.org. This activity assisted in providing accurate and up-to-date information for parents, professionals and child care providers regarding growth, nutrition, health, development, safety and parent education. Completed January 2007

EARLY CARE AND LEARNING

Research about learning during the youngest years supports the positive benefits of quality early childhood experiences. Part-day preschools and full-day programs, which provide rich learning environments and developmentally appropriate curriculums enhance a child's social, emotional and cognitive development and are linked with school readiness. Children with special needs gain substantial benefits from early intervention programs.



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Provided ongoing support and recommendations regarding Part C and the Idaho Early Care and Learning Plan. Ongoing

Developed a matrix of Idaho scholarships for Early Childhood Education. The matrix will help assess the need for scholarships to address the shortages in personnel. Completed September 2007

Determined a quarterly schedule to share information and partner with the Idaho Child Care Program and the Early Childhood Coordinating Council to assure communication and coordination. Completed Feb 2007

Reviewed the Infant Toddler Program State Performance Plan and provided comments. Completed May 2007

Participated in a regional Focus Monitoring visit that included a comprehensive review of the service delivery system for the Idaho Infant Toddler Program. Completed September 2007

Participated on the Early Learning Guidelines (ELG) advisory group. The Guidelines will provide a statewide framework for parents, teachers and caregivers for the purpose of optimizing the learning opportunities and development of all children. The council is serving as one of four partners on the Sponsor Team. Ongoing from April 2007 to December 2008

Review of proposed Federal Part C regulations and provided comments based on how the new regulations will impact Idaho. This comprehensive review covered over 300 pages of federal regulations. Comments submitted to the Office of Special Education Programs in July 2007

Gathered survey information from Infant Toddler Programs to determine existing literacy activities during home-based routines. Survey results indicated all seven regions are promoting early literacy activities. Disseminate early literacy to regions on an ongoing basis. Completed October 2007

FAMILY SUPPORT AND SELF SUFFICIENCY

The responsibility for family economic self-sufficiency resides not only on the head of the household, but on society. Few people strive to be on public assistance rather, they strive to be able to provide for the needs of their families.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Coordination and collaboration with the Idaho Child Care Program (ICCP) regarding income eligibility for subsidized child care for parents working, looking for work and going to school. Ongoing

Expanding information is ongoing related to programs and resources available for parents and care givers through the Early Childhood Information Clearinghouse. Ongoing

COMPREHENSIVE EARLY CARE & LEARNING SYSTEMS

The Early Childhood Comprehensive System focus area serves to tie together the five critical issue areas of the plan. It is designed to work effectively with complex organizational structures, policies, procedures and systems to improve effectiveness, availability and the quality of early care and learning services.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Developed tools for Regional Early Childhood budgeting and tracking of expenditures along with instructions for use. Completed March 2007

Developed and submitted a grant for early literacy support in SE Idaho. Additional supports will be explored during the next year. Completed November 2007

Gathered county demographic information on all 44 counties in Idaho to support the County Assessment. Completed July 2007

Reviewed and recommended approval of budgets for seven regional committees for 2007-2008. Regions are promoting inclusive activities for children with disabilities and their families and collaborating with community partners. Completed May 2007

Supported the training efforts of private developmental disabilities agencies (DDA). 100 resource packets with information about the importance of a medical home, Infant Toddler Program screening and services, early childhood social and emotional development were distributed for DDA and child care providers. Completed October 2007

Developed and adapted a County Assessment tool that will show strengths and needs around Early Childhood in all 44 counties. Field testing of the tool is underway in November 2007



STAKEHOLDER AND OTHER REPORTS

Quarterly meetings of the Early Childhood Coordinating Council include reports from stakeholders, Part C and Council staff. Reports include data that indicate specific challenges and often requests. A business decision-making process ensures the Council makes sound decisions with as much information as possible. A few examples of reports presented to the Council are listed below.

Easter Seals Goodwill informed the Council about their Autism initiative.

Idaho Children's Trust Fund presented an overview of their function and grant opportunities.

State Department of Insurance informed the Council about how the agency assists families with insurance.

Infant Toddler Program provides updates every meeting.

Kids Count presented a policy brief.

STATE IMPROVEMENTS/RESULTS

The Council monitors results from 88 strategies in Idaho's Early Care and Learning Plan. The plan covers five components that support families, communities and the state with helping children prepare for school and life. The components are: health, social and emotional development (also known as early childhood mental health), early education and care, parent education and family support and self sufficiency. Plan implementation is carried out by state and community partners with some represented through appointment on the Council. The Council forum provides an opportunity to discuss and share information across programs and systems and to help ensure the reduction of duplication of services.

Statewide experts are developing Early Learning Guidelines to support parents, extended family, educators and providers to understand early childhood development and provide multiple learning opportunities.

An important linkage has been established between early childhood experiences and violent criminal behavior.

Early Childhood Mental Health cross systems work is progressing toward a system of care for young children.

551 child care training events occurred during 2007.

Idaho AEYC reported 1,647 child care providers enrolled in the Professional Development System.

Training opportunities have been shared across regions and disciplines.

Communication and coordination among early childhood programs and providers has increased through conference calls, web sites and list serves.

The 15 indicators below have been extracted from the five component areas of the Early Care and Learning Plan and show the baseline data as of December 31, 2007. The Council will monitor this data during 2008.

EARLY CHILDHOOD COMPONENT BASELINE DECEMBER 31, 2007

HEALTH	EARLY CHILDHOOD MENTAL HEALTH	EARLY EDUCATION	PARENT SUPPORT	FAMILY SELF- SUFFICIENCY
# of health education initiative tools and resources distributed	# of agency partners working on Early Childhood Mental Health	# of policy changes to improve access to quality child care	# of policy changes to support families of young children	# of child care programs implementing Strengthening Families
3	8	1	1	22
# of outreach strategies to reach families with information about CHIP	# of faith-based resources listed on 2-1-1	# of child care providers receiving quality training	# of community organizations offering parent education	# of professionals trained in early childhood mental health diagnostic tools
3	92	5,336	41	38
# of children <6 enrolled with a Healthy Connections Provider	Increase in resources to develop early childhood mental health system	# of child care providers graduating with CDA, AA and BA degrees	# of new web links created on the Early Childhood Information Clearinghouse	# of early childhood agency aligned plans
49,903	2	11	17	7



REGIONAL EARLY CHILDHOOD COMMITTEES

Seven regional early childhood committees function as the outreach for the Early Childhood Coordinating Council and develop their local activities based on interest and need. A statewide charter provides the guidance for the state and local relationship along with recommendations for membership to ensure diverse and inclusive planning for all young children and their families.

During 2007, local committees joined the EC3 in public awareness activities and strengthening the communication and connections from local to state. One elected regional chair serves as the liaison with the state council and represents local interest. With the expanded scope of all children and families from birth through eight, local committees have gained new community partners.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Region I (Benewah, Boundary, Bonner, Kootenai & Shoshone Counties)

This region developed a calendar highlighting young children with disabilities for distribution to therapists, families, legislators and members of the community. Additionally, they are promoting child care provider attendance for child educational planning.



Region II (Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis & Nez Perce Counties)

This region holds Super Saturdays once per quarter that brings families together to network, share resources and talk with community providers. The average attendance is 50 people. An annual event takes place with decision making officials.



Region III (Adams, Canyon, Gem, Owyhee, Payette & Washington Counties)

This regional committee strengthened their relationship with community libraries through the purchase and donation of specialized materials to enable the entire community to access those materials. The activity promoted inclusion and literacy.

Region IV (Ada, Boise, Elmore, Valley Counties)

The Region IV Early Childhood Committee collaborated with Easter Seals Goodwill to deliver flowers and the packet of medical information regarding Autism, early intervention, medical homes, etc., to all physicians in Ada County.

Region VI (Bannock, Bear Lake, Bingham, Caribou, Franklin, Oneida, Power Counties)

In the southeastern part of the state health and early intervention receive a high priority as the committee members personally visit with medical providers to promote a medical home for young children with disabilities.

Region V (Blaine, Camas, Cassia, Gooding, Jerome, Lincoln, Minidoka, Twin Falls Counties)

This regional committee promoted early literacy by purchasing over 800 books to distribute to every child in the Infant Toddler program. The child and family will experience early literacy support in the home.



Region VII (Bonneville, Butte, Clark, Custer, Fremont, Jefferson, Lemhi, Madison, Teton Counties)

The eastern part of Idaho takes pride in the number of school districts that participate on their committee. This committee is working on relationships and effective communication with the child care community including training on how to handle sensitive issues with parents.



Early Childhood Coordinating Council System Development and Plan Alignment Early Care and Learning Plan

